

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /005 R

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ARA/ EP/ E: DKGUTHRIE

APPROVED BY: ARA/ EP/ E: DKGUTHRIE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 089620

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE , QUITO FROM GUAYAQUIL MAY 10.

QUOTE GUAYAQUIL 506.

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, EC, US

SUBJ: REPORTED PLAN TO KIDNAP CONGEN OFFICIAL

1. EDITOR OF GUAYAQUIL NEWSPAPER " LA RAZON" INFORMED USIS
CONTACT 9 MAY THAT ONE OF HIS REPORTERS OVERHEARD LENGTHY
CONVERSA-
TION ON 8 MAY AT GUAYAQUIL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
CONCERNING POSSIBLE PLANS TO KIDNAP UNIDENTIFIED AMERICAN CONSUL
TRAVELLING TO GALAPAGOS ISLANDS. FURTHER CHECKING WITH THE ORIGINAL
SOURCE REVEALS FOLLOWING:

A. SIX STUDENTS, NAMES UNKNOWN, WERE INVOLVED IN CONVERSATION;

B. USE OF HYPODERMIC WITH PENTATHOL OR ETHER WERE REFERRED TO;

C. EXTORTION OF MONEY WAS DISCUSSED;

D. AN AMERICAN CONSUL TRAVELLING TO THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS WITH
HIS WIFE AND TWO CHILDREN WERE REFERRED TO;

E. A BOAT CALLED THE " CALICUCHIMA" WHICH TAKES TOURISTS TO
THE GALAPAGOS WAS MENTIONED.

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F. THE TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF THE NEWSPAPERS " EL UNIVERSO"
AND " EL TELEGRAFO" WERE REFERRED TO;

G. A PLANE OF " TAME" AIRLINE WHICH FLIES TO THE GALAPAGOS WAS
MENTIONED.

H. THE DATES 14 AND 18 MAY WERE MENTIONED.

2. BUILDING IN WHICH CONVERSATION WAS OVERHEARD IS HANGOUT FOR
VIOLENCE- PRONE MEDICAL STUDENTS. POINT D, ABOVE, APPEARS SPECIFIC
REFERENCE TO VICE- CONSUL DONALD BRYFOGLE WHO, WITH WIFE, TWO
CHILDREN, AND FATHER- IN- LAW IS CURRENTLY ON TRIP TO GALAPAGOS
ABOARD THE " CALICUCHIMA", DUE TO RETURN MAY 14. POINT G, HOWEVER,
RAISES POSSIBILITY THAT TRIP OF OTHER CONGEN PERSONNEL (INCLUDING
USIS CONTACT OFFICER) WHICH PROJECTED FOR PERIOD 18-25 MAY BEING
REFERRED TO.

3. WE ARE IN PROCESS OF ALERTING NAVAL ZONE COMMANDER (TOUR BOAT
IS RUN BY NAVY), GOVERNOR, AND LOCAL SECURITY POLICE, AND WILL
ATTEMPT TO INFORM " CALICUCHIMA' S" MASTER AND BRYFOGLE THROUGH
ECUADOREAN NAVY COMMUNICATIONS CHANNELS. WE ARE ALSO CHECKING
FURTHER THROUGH OTHER MEANS ON POSSIBLE INTENTIONS AND PLANS OF
STUDENTS OR POTENTIAL KIDNAPPERS.

4. ATTEMPT TO KIDNAP AND HOLD SOMEONE HOSTAGE IN REMOTE GALAPAGOS
WOULD PRESENT DIFFICULTIES FROM PRACTICAL LOGISTICS AND
COMMUNICATION POINT OF VIEW. KIDNAPPING DURING " CALICUCHIMA' S"
APPROACH TO PORT OR AT DOCK UPON RETURN MORE FEASIBLE. FACT
REMAINS, HOWEVER, THAT CONVERSATION DESCRIBED ABOVE DID TAKE PLACE
AND WAS OBSERVED BY EXPERIENCED JOURNALIST FRIENDLY TO U. S. WHO
DOES NOT HAVE OBVIOUS MOTIVE FOR FABRICATING STORY. WE WILL
REPORT FURTHER DETAILS AS THEY OCCUR.
LUBENSKY UNQUOTE ROGERS

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